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end

and wherein the network control elements are connectable to a plurality of sub-networks.

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8. The access node according to claim 7, wherein the network control elements comprise a network control switch and a plurality of channel cluster modules, in that the network control node router is coupled to the access node router and to the channel cluster modules, and in that the channel cluster modules are connectable to a sub-network corresponding to the network control node.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hiekali (US Patent No. 5,619,500). Claims 1-8 are pending. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a communication system comprising: a plurality of terminals which are connected to an access network, the access network having an access node connected to a transmission network and a network switch, wherein the access node includes an access node switch coupled to the network switch and a plurality of network control elements, and wherein the transmission network comprises a plurality of sub-networks coupled to the network control elements.

Hiekali, as read by the applicants, relates to an ATM network which includes one or more ATM gateways for interfacing a plurality of T1 or fractional T1 signals with a higher bandwidth ATM network switch.

Applicants can find nothing in Hiekali that teaches an access network having an access node connected to a transmission network and a network switch, wherein the access node includes an access node switch coupled to the network switch and a plurality of network control elements, and wherein the transmission network comprises a plurality of sub-networks coupled to the network control elements, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Amended independent claims 7 recites similar limitations.

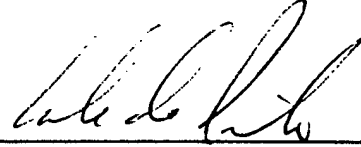
Hiekali teaches an ATM network which includes an ATM switch, which is formed a a plurality of T3 circuits over a wide service area, and a plurality of ATM gateway with a plurality of port for connection to a number of users, see col. 2, lines 3-24. Therefore, as with the prior art discussed in the specification on page 1, lines 12-27, the ATM switch needs to known all details of the access network in order to be able to deliver information to the correct terminal, and thus adding complexity to the switch.

In contrast, the Applicant teaches by using an access node switch for coupling the switching means to the plurality of network control elements which control a corresponding sub-network, all access network specific issues can be dealt with by the access node switch. Consequently, the network switching means can operate according to a standard signaling protocol, and thus reducing complexity.

It is well settled that a reference that does not teach, show or suggest all of the features of a claimed invention cannot anticipate that invention. Since Hiekali does not teach, show or suggest all of the features of independent claims 1 and 7, as recited above, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 7, as amended, are patentable over Hiekali.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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On March 1, 2002

By 
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VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) Communication system comprising:
_____ a plurality of terminals which are connected to ~~a network switch via~~
an access network, the access network ~~comprising~~ having
_____ an access node ~~coupled to the terminals via~~ connected to a
transmission network, ~~the access node further being coupled to and a~~ the network
switch, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein,
_____ the access node ~~comprises~~ includes an access node switch
coupled to the network switch and a plurality of network control elements, and
wherein
~~in that the access node switch is coupled to the network switch and to the~~
~~plurality of network control elements, in that~~ the transmission network
comprises a plurality of sub-networks coupled, ~~and in that~~ to the network control
elements ~~are coupled to the plurality of sub-networks.~~

2. (Amended) Communication system according to claim 1, ~~characterized~~
~~in that~~ wherein the network control elements comprise a network control switch
and a plurality of channel cluster modules, in that the network control switch is
coupled to the access node switch and to the channel cluster modules, and in
that the channel cluster modules are coupled to the sub-network corresponding
to the network control node.

3. (Amended) Communication system according to claim 2, ~~characterized~~
~~in that~~ wherein the channel cluster modules comprise at least one downstream
channel module.

4. (Amended) Communication system according to claim 3, characterized
in that the channel cluster module comprises an upstream channel module.

5. (Amended) Communication system according to one of the claims 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the terminals comprises signaling means for exchanging network layer control information with the network switch.

6. (Amended) Communication system according to one of the claims 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the network switch comprises proxy signaling means for deriving network layer control information from session layer and/or transport layer information exchanged between a terminal and the network switch.

7. (Amended) An Access node ~~coupled being~~ connectable to a transmission network, and to a network switch, ~~characterized in that~~ the access node comprising:

_____ ~~comprises~~ an access node switch ~~being~~ coupled to a plurality of network control elements, ~~in that~~ wherein the access node switch is connectable to the network switch and ~~in that~~ wherein the network control elements are connectable to a plurality of sub-networks.

8. (Amended) The Access node according to claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the network control elements comprise a network control switch and a plurality of channel cluster modules, in that the network control node router is coupled to the access node router and to the channel cluster modules, and in that the channel cluster modules are connectable to a sub-network corresponding to the network control node.